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# Hawks' Herald - December 11, 2004

Roger Williams University

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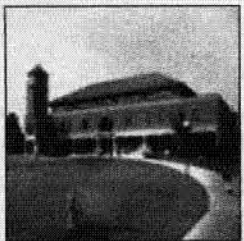
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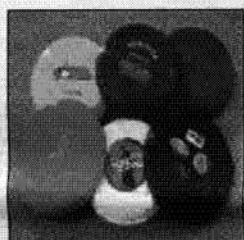


## THIS WEEK



How late can  
you study?  
page 4

## SPORTS



# THE HAWK'S HERALD

an independent student newspaper

## Administration clarifies student alcohol limits

Ashley Erling  
Contributing Writer

It was the night after everyone had settled back into campus for the fall semester, and students were gathered in their hallways. Resident Advisors (RA) held campus-wide "welcome back" mandatory floor meetings at 8 p.m. to discuss the same rules that students hear year after year. This year, one new policy was added to the list.

"Before you guys go, we have to let you know one other thing," Allison Belanger, Almeida RA, told her residents. "The alcohol limit for students 21 and older is 24 beers, not 30," she stated. Students looked at each other for a moment and pondered the news. One student asked why. Belanger responded she wasn't sure. The meeting

then broke up and students went their separate ways, unruffled.

In previous years, students of age were under the impression that the amount of alcohol they could possess at one time was 30 beers. This year, however, under the refined policy, a student of age may only be in possession of 24 beers at a time. The only problem is, the limit has always been 24, and the "change in policy" wasn't a change at all. So why had RWU students been under the impression the alcohol limit was 30 beers?

Perhaps students had always believed this because specific information was never provided to them. The alcohol policy in the RWU student handbook reads, "Large volume containers and excessive

amounts of alcohol are prohibited on campus." But what is an "excessive amount" and who defines it?

Administration at the University defines "excessive amounts" as a case of beer. However, what the policy did not specify was what size case. Vice President of Student Affairs John King said, "We need to get away from using vague language." Terms such as "excessive amounts" and "case" leave students confused as to what's allowed.

In previous years, students thought a case was 30 beers, or a "30-rack" as it is more commonly known. King feels that a large part of the 30-rack misconception is due to advertisers pushing the sale of these cases. The 30-rack has become the

SEE BEER, PAGE 6

## College Binging

Harvard University study  
csuinfo.org

### Binge drinkers cited four reasons for drinking:

1. Drinking to get drunk
2. Status associated with drinking
3. Culture of alcohol consumption on campus
4. Peer pressure & academic stress

### Frequent binge drinkers were 21 times more likely to:

1. Miss class
2. Fall behind in school work
3. Become hurt or injured
4. Engage in unplanned sexual activity
5. Get in trouble with campus police
6. Drive a car

### Negative consequences to binge drinking:

- 57% had to take care of an intoxicated student
- 23% had a serious argument
- 11% had been pushed, hit or assaulted

## Why aren't my textbooks worth more at buyback?

PRESSWIRE  
Oberlin, Ohio

It's almost the end of another term and time for students to think about what they'll do with those pricey textbooks. Unfortunately, many students will be unhappy to learn that the value of their textbook has depreciated significantly during the term, or is not eligible for buyback. The National Association of College Stores offers some answers to students' most frequently asked questions about textbook buyback:

### Why are some books worth more?

The value of a used book depends on whether or not that particular book has been assigned by a professor for the following term. If the bookstore has received an order from the professor for the book, the bookstore will generally buy back used copies in good condition for about 50 percent of the retail price. If the book has not been assigned on campus for the next term, the bookstore will check with wholesale companies to determine the national market value—often a

much smaller percentage of the original retail price.

### Why did my friend get more than I did for the same book?

Timing plays a huge role in students getting the best prices during buyback. A late book order from an instructor can negatively impact the value of a book. Also, the national market value for a particular book fluctuates based on the changing supply and demand for that book nationwide.

### Why won't the store buy back my books?

Stores and wholesalers typically don't buy back books once their quota is reached. But there are other reasons why your book may not be bought back as well: it's possible your textbook is not being used anywhere next term, particularly if it is highly specialized or customized; the publisher may be replacing the book with a new, updated edition next term; the book may be part of a required package of items that cannot be sold separately; or, your copy may not be salable due to

its poor condition.

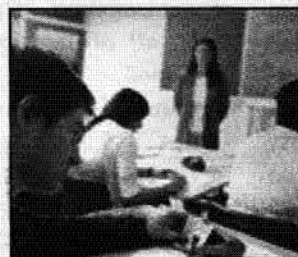
### Why don't I get more for my books?

College stores provide used book as a less expensive alternative for students, generally pricing them 25 percent less than new books. Because providing used books is a labor intensive process that creates additional costs for stores, paying more for them at buyback would raise the retail price of the book when it is resold.

### Why don't stores sell used books for the same price they were bought back?

Stores must add an amount to the price of all merchandise—including used books—to help cover normal operating expenses. These include: staff wages and benefits; mortgage or rent payments; utilities; insurance and taxes; checkout systems; shelving; security; cleaning and repairs; supplies; and other expenses.

Additional information on NACS can be found online at [www.nacs.org](http://www.nacs.org).



## Results of RWU Academic Integrity survey shocking

If the old saying "cheaters never win" is true, students at Roger Williams University should reevaluate their own academic integrity. This is not meant to be demeaning in any way, but rather a call to action. Based on results from the Academic Integrity Survey that was taken by students last year, the students of RWU cheat and accept cheating at a far higher rate than the national average.

*How likely is it that you'd report an incident of cheating that you observed?* Forty-seven percent of RWU students who took the survey said "very unlikely," while only 29 percent of U.S. undergrads answered the same.

*How often have you observed someone else cheat on a test?* Eight percent of RWU students answered "more than once," a figure double the national average.

*How often have you observed someone using a false excuse to obtain an extension on a due date?* Fourteen percent of RWU students answered "more than once," while only six percent of U.S. undergrads answered the same.

This matter is well beyond a question of students' morality and ethics. After you graduate, do you want your degree to mean anything in the professional world? Would you want a business that you are interviewing for to know the survey information and wonder if you are "another cheater from that RWU?" This is something that the students can and should change. If you know of anyone cheating or falsifying information, let your professor know. We can make this University both academically and morally stronger. It may be difficult to report incidents of academic dishonesty, but how would you feel if the professionals you trust on a daily basis (doctors, lawyers, air traffic controllers, etc.) cheated their way through college?

For questions, concerns, comments, or more information on this survey, contact your Student Senate at ext. 3312

Student Affairs Committee - RWU Student Senate





Chris Villano  
Contributing Writer

When you can't find an open computer in the library in between classes to check your fantasy sports teams, you know something's up. Since when did it become cool to hang out in the library? Oh yeah, since finals week rolled up in its pig-mobile, wrote us all tickets for being lazy, drained the kegs and forced us to do community service in the library—study.

But this is of a different kind. Instead of being that loser kid studying for his Lit/Phil test on a Friday night, the guy who has to do the most studying is suddenly the coolest.

**Dude A:** "I just studied for five hours."

**Dude B:** "Oh yeah, well I just spent the last two days on the third floor of the library finishing projects, writing essays, studying for finals and making out with the security guards—I even went to the writing center."

**Dude A:** "Amazing, there's a third floor to the library?" (There is, in fact.)

I don't know about you, but I'm the type of guy who saves everything until the absolute

last minute. I don't mean "night before," I mean the "morning of." I still get everything done; I just work better under pressure. This tends to work well the entire semester—until now. Because not only are there finals to worry about, but there are final projects, final essays and final tests which all seem to be scheduled on the exact same day.

*I'm the type of guy who saves everything until the absolute last minute. I don't mean "night before," I mean "morning of."*

I can't do everything the "morning of," it's just not possible. This means I have to do work "in advance." What the hell is that? For some of you this may come naturally, you may be a responsible student who gets all their work done ahead of time and never worries. This may also mean you are a cyborg sent from the planet "Ridiculous" with super-human college skills who does community service at the hospital on the side (I'm on to you).

But for the rest of us normal college kids, I'm not alone when I lament about doing all this work. And another

thing, I'm no longer going to refer to essays and such as "work." Because when I'm "working," I get paid like \$10 an hour (off the books), but when I write a 10-page paper for psychology I'm paying like \$50 an hour (suck on that Bursars office!)

Now onto the subject of Christmas break. I remember when I was a freshman, I thought hav-

ing a month off from school was totally awesome and like totally generous of colleges around the world. But now I've figured it out. We don't actually get January off; we really just have to do a month's worth of exertion (synonym for "work") in a week's amount of time. That's right, all of January is crammed into this upcoming week—GREAT! I cannot wait to be up at five in the morning, screaming at my computer and staring, with bloodshot eyes, at the cursor blinking on and off. Seriously, I can't wait. I

feel like I'm six again and it's 11 o'clock on Christmas Eve; I can hardly contain my joy and anticipation.

If you're expecting smart and witty closing sentences, you're not going to get them this week. I just don't have the mental capacity to waste, I'm sure you understand.

And on a side note, I'd like to thank my editors for letting me get away with saying all of the "borderline" things I've said this semester. I'd also like to thank all the adults who read

my column in disgust—thanks for not writing in any complaints, I'm truly shocked. Thank you Jen, for not suing me and my friends after you severely dislocated your knee cap while playing beer pong in our kitchen this weekend. Thank you — for being the worst landlord known to man and teaching me a valuable lesson about money. Thank you mom and dad, for not getting mad at your son for writing a weekly column about social deviance. And thank you, this column, for giving me a place to vent each week.

## Police Beat

*Are you too good for your home??*

Wednesday, December 1, at 11:14 p.m.:

A juvenile was seen around Maple Hall, telling students that he was a runaway and needed a place to stay.

**Mr. Magoo**

Thursday, December 2, at 10:47 p.m.:

A student reports the larceny of glasses.

*"But Officer, I only had 2 Bud Lights!"*

Friday, December 3, at 1:52 a.m.:

Jaclyn Silva, 24, of 1 King St., Bristol, RI, was charged with DUI/drugs first offense and refusal to submit to a chemical test.

Saturday, December 4, at 1:48 a.m.:

Jessica Gibson, 21, of 14 Fairway Lane, Foxboro, Mass., was charged with DUI and refusal to submit to a chemical test. Gibson was speeding and swerving on the road.

**McElroy McBusted**

Friday, December 3, at 8:32 p.m.:

William McElroy, 19, of 10 Dartmouth St., Bristol, RI, was arrested on a warrant for receiving stolen goods and obtaining money under false pretenses.

**Tattletale**

Friday, December 3, at 9:38 p.m.:

Security called police to campus for marijuana at Willow Hall.

*The Legend Continues (...this one's for you, Ted)*

Saturday, December 4, at 11:58 p.m.:

Barrett Platzner, 21, of 417 Metacom Ave., Bristol, RI, was charged with DUI/drugs first and refusal to submit to a chemical test.

*How do you decide if they're trespassing, anyway?*

Sunday, December 5, at 12:22 a.m.:

A male was trespassing on campus.

## Herald Staff

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News Editor: Aubrey Joyce

Sports Editor: Tim Mannion

Human Interest Editor: Erika Murphy

Science Editor: Heather Kordula

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To contact the Hawk's Herald, email us at [hawksherald@yahoo.com](mailto:hawksherald@yahoo.com) or call x3229.

## Editor's Desk

*This message is brought to you by carrots and milk and cookies, which isn't what we want for Christmas (see below), but keeps our eyes on the sky for that bright red nose.*

Dear Santa, We've been EXTREMELY good this year. In fact, we've been near-saints - one of us was even BORN on All Saints day, making Christmas the most rewarding holiday of all. We've tolerated the utmost stressors: deadlines, bad hair days, bad boyfriends (they're getting coal, correct?), homework, broken nails, insomnia and the hassles of everyday college life. So, excuse us for being blunt, but we highly deserve the following:

10. A couch for our office. I'm talking a Cardi's suede, extra-long delight.
9. A covered, six-seater golf cart for transportation around campus.
8. Hawk's Herald parking spaces - right in front of the Rec Center.
7. An interior decorator, to make this place more colorful and conducive to working.
6. The guarantee that we will be blissfully carefree, and full of holiday substance, on New Year's Eve.
5. Heat for the office. It is cold in here.
4. A promising sign that next semester, our staff will triple.
3. A blinding snowstorm to barricade those we dislike within their homes.
2. A special, new pair of Christmas flip-flops for Timmy (Happy Holidays, hunny).
1. The satisfaction of having our feet kissed after certain people realize their ultimate stupidity.

*Happy Holidays! See you next semester!*

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## A PERFECT 10



Hairs

Nails

Tanning

Spa Pedicures

338 Metacom Ave. • Bristol, RI 02809 • 253-OTAN (0826)

## Bristol residents thank students for community work

I've just returned from my dad's house where I watched as five delightful young women (Michelle Picard, Veronica Fodor, Nicole Arvanites, Callie Neilson, Christine Houston, and Corrie Scozzafava) raked leaves and cleaned up his yard. They are one of several groups of students at Roger Williams University who were doing their part, this weekend to fulfill the requirement of a Community Service Program offered by the University.

As they worked diligently to clear the yard, they giggled and chatted their way through the mess of leaves and debris. I couldn't get them to stop for a refreshment break. After an hour and a half of raking and packing 23 bags full of leaves, they were still giggling and happy as they left to clean up another yard for one of our elderly residents. This is the third year that students at the University have come by to do a fall clean up. All have been pleasant, hard working and respectful.

This year, two positive changes were noted: first, the program started later in the year, so that the trees would be rid of all the leaves before any raking was done; and second, students were equipped with their own rakes and plenty of bags.

The University is to be commended for providing this service to the elderly. Many thanks to Rita Ayres at Benjamin Church Manor and KC Ferrara at the University, who are responsible for matching up students with elderly residents needing assistance. We are very fortunate to have this program – and it's free to any senior who asks for the help.

Sincerely,

Nancy Securo-Gibbemeyer

We wanted to THANK YOU and the students at RWU for the generous donations. The families appreciated the thoughtfulness and generosity.

Monique Latessa

Rockwell School Principal

This is a special thanks to the two girls that raked my leaves on Saturday. It was greatly appreciated. I don't know their names, but thank you sincerely.

Mrs. Bottigliari

Dear Roger Williams Students:

Thank you so much for your Thanksgiving basket and gifts. You made my Thanksgiving a memorable one. I felt exhilarated. I was in awe of all I received. My table looked lovely and everything matched. To the delight of my 3 year-old grandson, he was so happy with the red wagon.

Our Thanksgiving dinner was the best ever. You're all in my thoughts and prayers. I'll never forget your kindness. On behalf of my family, thanks again.

Sincerely, Dolores

Note: Due to the recent influx of Letters to the Editors, we are now enforcing a 700-word limit on future submissions. For any letters that exceed this limit, the Herald reserves the right to refuse publication, or edit content to fit the space provided.

## New graduate programs underway at University

Julia Weisman

Contributing Writer

Two new graduate programs are underway at RWU: the Master's of Public Administration, which began this fall, and the Master's of Psychology, which begins in September of 2005.

There are presently 10 to 12 students in the Public Administration's Master's program. It is a 36-credit, part-time evening program designed for fulltime workers. The classes meet on alternate weeks, for a combination of in-class instruction and online learning. Political Science Professor

June Speakman feels this new program, "builds on the strength of the department." The program takes about two years to complete, with 12 courses in all. Among several requirements of the applicant, students must have a GPA of 2.75 or higher in undergraduate work, two letters of recommendations and a personal goal statement. The Psychology Master's is a more demanding fulltime day program. The program, which takes an average year and a half to finish, can be approached as either thesis, which includes a

major research project, or non-thesis, which is an internship. Professor Don Whitworth, the chair of the department and primary author of the program, anticipates the internships will "extend RWU further into the community." Requirements include: at least a 3.2 GPA, a bachelor's degree in Psychology or related subject, as well as recommendations.

Both Master's programs plan to add resources to the school library and enhance the reputation of the University.

## Ukrainian Revolution

Opinion/Editorial

Ethan Maron

Contributing Writer

I would give a lot to walk the streets of Kiev right now. Just a walk, that's all I want. I want to see the streets, and the crowds. It can be hard to be a youth activist in the United States – our generation seems possessed of a certainty of our impotence that is normally reserved for moral truths alone. There's a lethargy afflicting college students here that's damnably hard to shake, even in myself. Kiev, I think, would wake me up.

Ukraine's presidential election was rigged. The corrupt pro-Russian candidate was declared the winner instead of a West-leaning democratic reformer, in a process that's been nearly universally condemned as invalid. (Russia and Uzbekistan, those great bastions of democracy, are among the few states who initially insisted the vote was legitimate.) The Ukrainian government tried to steal its people's chance at true democracy—and the people fought back. Not in a coup, not in riots, but in the finest tradition of civil disobedience. They set up a massive tent city in the capital—Kiev—and they've stayed there. If you look at pictures of Kiev, the streets are covered in orange: orange banners, orange hats, orange signs, orange flags. It's called, unsurprisingly, the "Orange

Revolution"—a reference to the "Rose Revolution," a similar popular revolt in Georgia last year.

This protest is lasting a lot longer, though—and it's a lot harder. When the corrupt ex-Soviet regime was ousted in Georgia last year, it was all over in a few days. This protest started in late November, and it's still going strong. It's cold in Kiev this time of year, but people still flock to the tent city on Kreschatik Street to protest, to march, to be heard. At first, it seemed entirely possible that Ukrainian security services would disperse the crowds – with guns, perhaps, or dogs, or the deadly metronomic up-and-down of riot batons. But the protestors stayed, and the guns didn't fire.

The guns are quiet still—but not the streets. "Yuschenko!" is a popular chant – the name of the reformist candidate, Yuschenko. "Nas bahato! Nas ne podolaty!" is another—"We are many! It's impossible to overpower us!" I rather like that one. And of those many, the most prominent are the youth. It is a youth organization, Pora, that organized the tent city and protests when Mr. Yuschenko called for his supporters to take to the streets. *The New York Times* reports that tents and banners were up within minutes. These youth have made provisions for food, for shelter, for the organization of demon-

strations – and they're close to bringing down a corrupt, undemocratic regime.

At the time of this writing, it seems most likely that a new "runoff" election will be held on Dec. 26, with the eyes of the world watching. It's all but certain Yuschenko will win this election. If he follows through on his campaign promises, he'll go down in history as the man who brought real democracy to Ukraine. I have the greatest admiration for this man – it's beyond the scope of this article, but his courage and sheer personal toughness are truly awe-inspiring. But – it isn't Yuschenko who'll truly be bringing democracy to Ukraine. The credit for that belongs to his supporters, to Pora – to the men and women huddling in the cold, waiting for their nation's dawn.

I won't bore you with a discussion of the geopolitical issues involved in this election—[www.rferl.org](http://www.rferl.org) has good coverage, if you want it—but suffice to say that this matters. The world will change, a bit, when Yushchenko becomes Ukraine's president – and it will be the youth who have changed it. The lesson I draw from the Ukraine, and share with you, is this: the youth can move nations. The youth can change the world.

Nas bahato! Nas ne podolaty!



## Having your cake and eating it two... in the morning

Tracey Lemle  
Contributing Writer

On any given weeknight, Sarah Henley, junior, will be told to leave the library at midnight. Her work may not be completed, and there may be several other students around, but because the majority has already exited the library, midnight seems to be the designated hour to lock up.

Although Peter Deekle, Dean of the University Library, says "there is not much more need for that on a regular basis," when describing why the library is not open later, Henley strongly disagrees. She claims, "I could have gotten so much more done last night if I hadn't been kicked out at midnight. I'm a busy girl! I can't just work ahead like everybody else."

The library is not the only place where students feel shortchanged. Dining services, health services and the computer center all close early, a policy that has some students wondering, why?

With a current undergraduate population hovering around 3,500, the

question is, if the students are rising in numbers, shouldn't campus services reflect that increase by extending hours?

Deekle acknowledges that there have been requests to extend the hours of the library; however, he is planning an "experiment" to see if later hours are worthwhile. During the reading period next week, there will be extended library hours in the morning and in the evening for students who want to study for their final exams. Although this trial period may prove to be useful, students are still angered by the operating hours during the regular semester. Deekle points out that there is a 24-hour room that the library provides, which can seat about 20 students. This room, however, has no access to the stacks and does not supply any computers, only plugs for students' personal laptops.

Every time a student enters the library, he or she is counted, so that administrators, like

Deekle, can plan accordingly. However, if the library closes on Friday nights at 6 p.m., there is considerably less traffic in the few hours prior. So how can Deekle know that by closing the library at 6 p.m. he is not dissuading students who would benefit from studying past that hour? Brendon Scanlon, freshman and member of the sailing team, finds the weekend hours to be detrimental to his studies. "The library should be open longer on Saturday nights because people on sports teams may get back after hours and still need the resources offered for a certain class."

Other colleges similar to RWU, such as Dartmouth College in New Hampshire and Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania, have 24-hour library services. Of the 10 libraries that Ivy League member Dartmouth has, two are open 24 hours. Students need card access to get in, and even though there is no admittance to the stacks, one of the areas avail-

SEE HOURS, PAGE 6



### ASK MEG & ASH

#### Have A Wonderful Holiday Season!

Dear Meg and Ash,

I have been seeing a girl for a few months now. We aren't serious nor are we exclusive and with the upcoming holidays approaching, I was wondering if I should get her a gift and if so what?

Shop 'til I Drop?

#### Shop:

You should definitely get her a gift. The key is to be thoughtful, but not overwhelming. You don't need to spend a lot of money in order to get the point across that you care for her. With whatever you buy, you want her to know that you were thinking of her when purchasing the gift. What are your mutual interests? Are you both stand-up comedy fans? Get her Chris Rock's new DVD and spend a night on the couch watching it. Do you both enjoy the theater? Buy play tickets and go together. Is she really into fashion? Get her a Coach ID cardholder for her uni-card. Whatever you purchase, keep these simple rules in mind: 1) buy a thoughtful card or write something personal on a blank one, 2) wrap your present...even if it's done poorly it will show effort, 3) stay away from gift certificates if possible because it shows that you didn't have the time or desire to go shopping. Also, it's your call, but you may want to mention something to her about exchanging gifts. The pro to this is that she won't feel like an idiot if she doesn't get you something, but the con is that it won't be a surprise! Good Luck and Happy Holidays!

Dear Meg and Ash,

My boyfriend has no idea how to include me. He and his group of friends often make plans right in front of me without even bothering to ask! He usually ends up coming home drunk on Friday and Saturday and I usually just stay in and wait around. Help!

Lonely and Left-Out

#### Lonely:

We're going to be blunt here... it sounds like "he's just not that into you." Have you actually talked about being official? Because it sounds as if he's more into partying with the gang then spending quality time with you, and that's not the type of relationship you want to be in. When he makes these plans, is it with just "the guys" or guys and girls? Maybe he just wants some time to bond, but you have to step back and make sure he's dividing up his time equally. Think about the time you spend together. Are you really big on PDA (public displays of affection)? Maybe he is uncomfortable with PDA and is afraid his friends will make fun of him for it. You should try talking to him and letting him know you're into going out and having a good time too. If he still seems reluctant to include you, then something may be up and we suggest calling it quits. You can find a guy who will give you the attention you deserve. Whatever you do, stop staying home and waiting up for him! Be your own independent person and go out and make some friends. Let him know you can survive without him around... he may start respecting you more.

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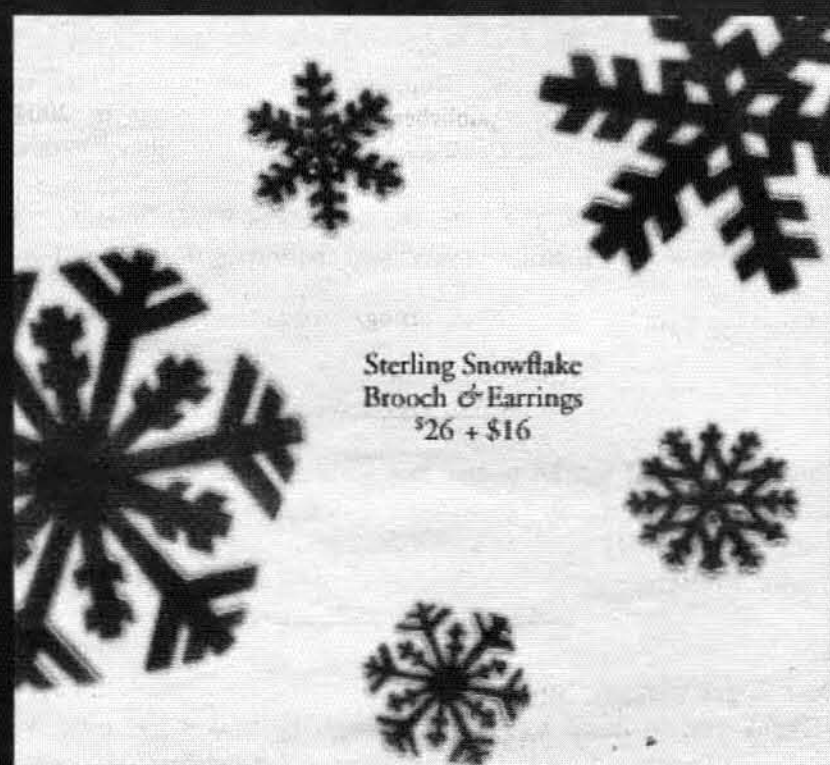
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# New benefits in studying abroad

Amy Friedman  
Contributing Writer

In the 2002-2003 academic year, 152 students participated in the RWU study abroad program. This past year, the number has increased to 235 students.

Significant changes are evolving the RWU study abroad program, including the addition of countries available for travel: Spain, Turkey, Jamaica, China and New Zealand. During winter intersession, communication majors now have the opportunity to study in Ireland. The University's focus for the programs is on a student-learning experience and adventures abroad.

Gina Lopardo, the director of the RWU study abroad program said it's no wonder the number of participants is at a constant increase—many opportunities and programs are offered.

This year, the programs offered by RWU are classic, field-based and discipline-specific; they offer an array of multiple challenges and differences.

The classic programs, noted for a structured learning experience, offer a broad look at new cultures. The field-based programs give students a hands-on experience by bringing the environment into the classroom. The discipline-specific programs place attention on students who focus their studies in natural science, business, mathematics, engineering and education.

RWU also has designed a new advertising promotion to get more students involved. Senior Jessica Heady updates her study abroad experience from Florence, Italy, by revealing pictures and writing journal entries on a blog, acces-

the **rwu** experience  
life studying abroad:diary

Roger Williams  
University

## Thanksgiving Weekend

Monday, November 29, 2004

This past weekend has been non stop craziness. I spent all day Thursday, in class; which sucked because even though it was a holiday for us, it wasn't for everyone else in this country. Then we had somewhere in between 15 and 20 people over every night this weekend. And we still have some leftovers. Thanksgiving was good, we had good food and great time, and even though none of us were home with our families, it wasn't that bad. The only disappointment was that our Italian neighbors didn't come because they had to work and forgot.

Saturday afternoon a few of the guys planned a football game. I didn't play (those of you who know me shouldn't be surprised about that). It would have been bad for whatever team I was on if I played. It was funny though, because Italian families would stop and watch for a little bit and try and figure out the game.

Also, the city has been getting ready for Christmas. There are Christmas lights and decorations up and down most of the busy streets and pretty windows all set up in the expensive stores. It's almost impossible to move down some of the streets because of all the window shoppers, which isn't much fun if you are in a hurry, but other than that it's okay.

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### About the Blogger



My name is Jessica, and I'm from Bridgeport, CT. I'm currently a senior political science major. I'm really excited about this trip because I have never been to Europe before and I know it will be an unforgettable experience.

Photo RWU.edu

RWU senior Jessica Heady, below, is working in conjunction with the study abroad program, keeping blogs of her experience in Florence.

sible from the RWU Web site. In one of her first entries, Jessica wrote, "I'm starting to get a little homesick when I read emails from my friends and family at home. And I really miss my puppy. But it is all worth it for the experience that I am having right now."

"Ninety-nine percent of the students who pre-

viously studied abroad wish they could have another experience because they come back more self-assured, have a keener sense of being American, and have more of a sense of place in the world," Lopardo said.

For more information visit the Web site: [www.rwu.edu/global](http://www.rwu.edu/global).



## StudyAbroad.com launches world's first online interactive reality show

PRESSWIRE  
Chester, Penn.  
(Dec. 1, 2004)

An Internet company specializing in study abroad education has created the world's first online interactive reality show.

Combining television shows such as MTV's *The Real World* and CBS's *Amazing Race* with the fast-growing technology of Internet blogging, StudyAbroad.com has created BlogAbroad.com, a Web site where three college students studying abroad during the spring semester will keep an interactive journal of their adventures. They will be given different tasks to complete during the semester and will post comments, stories, pictures and videos available 24 hours a day. People who log onto the site can then respond with posts, interact with the star and simultaneously experience the reality of studying

abroad.

BlogAbroad.com uses the blogging technology of proprietary Internet publisher, MindSay.

"We have created something unique and captivating here," says Mark Shay, president and CEO of StudyAbroad.com. "BlogAbroad.com takes the reality show to the next level. Now, instead of just watching these people's lives, the audience can interact with them. They can feel like a part of the action. And in addition to being an innovation for the reality genre, it is also a great way to promote cultural understanding and studying abroad. BlogAbroad.com is a perfect blend of entertainment and education, and we are excited to be the first ones to bring it to the mainstream."

Blogging has been around for a few years, but is just now beginning to gain popularity among general consumers, as evidenced by

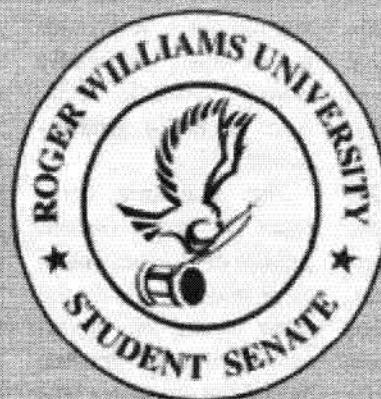
a recent CNN story that Merriam-Webster lists the word blog as the number one researched word in 2004 and is adding it to their dictionary.

"Blogging is similar to a forum in that a person posts a comment and anyone can respond," says Adam Ostrow, Co-founder of MindSay. "But blogging has ballooned into much more than that, as thousands of blogging communities have begun to pop up all over the world, incorporating instant messaging, email and video chats. Web sites like [www.MindSay.com](http://www.MindSay.com) act as a central location for these communities to come together, forming interactive towns where next-door neighbors can be oceans away from each other."

StudyAbroad.com is now accepting written auditions at [www.BlogAbroad.com](http://www.BlogAbroad.com).

## Student Senate

Meetings are held every Monday at 6:30 pm in the  
Student Senate Chambers  
(Located on the second floor of the Recreation Center).



# We Govern Your Body



## Beer

(cont'd. from page 1)

norm for most students.

This year, however, administration has decided to take a proactive stand to prevent such judicial discrepancies before they happen. Which is why students were told

by their RAs at the beginning of the semester that a case is in fact 24, not 30.

"Due to student feedback, we saw that students wanted clarification," said Heidi Hartzell, Director of Judicial Affairs.

As for hard alcohol,

the limit remains one "regular size bottle" which is 750 ml, not a handle, as many students think.

For quad-apartment settings, the acceptable amount of alcohol is two cases and two bottles. For example, a quad in Bayside would be able to hold 48 beers and two 750 ml bottles at one time, not 96 and four, respectively.

When RWU first decided to clarify its own policy, they began to investigate other schools' policies.

Salve Regina University in Newport, RI, (SRU) for example, takes a hard stand on alcohol. Their code of conduct states, "SRU does not allow alcoholic beverages or related paraphernalia of any kind in residence facilities." This policy reflects the equivalent of Cedar Hall at RWU, only SRU's laws are campus-wide. SRU goes further, saying, "Students who are found in possession or in the presence of alcohol are in violation of university policy."

Bentley College in Mass. offers a different approach to drinking on their campus. Students

under 21 are not allowed to drink. As for students of age, Bentley's webpage explains, students are "permitted to drink responsibly at campus events and on their own."

Likewise, Quinnipiac University in Conn. takes no direct stand on how much alcohol is allowed. Their code of conduct states, "a person of age may consume in the privacy of their apartment." They do, however, also say, "intoxication is a violation of Quinnipiac regulations."

Some other colleges and universities realize the need to be specific and firm in their rules. Stonehill College in Mass. has dedicated an extensive portion of their code of conduct to alcohol usage. Stonehill clearly defines how much alcohol will be allowed, saying, "Any student found with more than a case (24 cans/bottles) of beer or more than one liter of other alcoholic beverages (or the equivalent combination) will be subject to a minimum sanction of loss of residence for one

academic semester."

Similarly, Bridgewater State University's (also in Mass.) code of conduct has a very detailed rule on alcohol limits. Within a 24-hour period, a student is not to exceed containers equal to more than 24 oz. of beer, 200 ml of hard alcohol, 750 ml of wine or 72 ounces of a wine cooler."

"It is an obvious trend [schools are taking] to get away from the vague language," King said.

The problem really isn't the six-beer difference between 24 and 30, but rather the severity of binge drinking on college campuses. Just this semester, there have been three high-profile cases (two in Colorado and one in Oklahoma) of alcohol poisoning that have led to death. According to CNN, the estimated number of total deaths per year among college students due to alcohol is 1,400, the majority of which can be attributed to drunk driving.

Hartzell and King both agree this policy clarification is to get students to think before they drink.



"There is a concern that, along with many other colleges, RWU is not immune to the problems of alcohol abuse," Hartzell said. In addition, she feels the position is less about the alcohol itself and more about "promoting discretion and responsibility when making alcohol-related decisions."

The current details of the alcohol policy at RWU can be found in the student handbook. King hopes "to have an exact number stated clearly in the RWU handbook next year," but for now students who wish for further clarification can talk to their RAs, a CORE or Judicial Affairs.



Blaine Moffa

According to the RWU student alcohol policy, two 30-racks of beer and two 750 ml bottles of hard liquor are an excessive amount of alcohol for an apartment-style quad.

## Hours

(cont'd. from page 4)

able can hold 60 people and has computers. The other room is strictly for studying, but can accommodate over 200 students. Bob Campe, Director of Management at Dartmouth stated, "These areas are used a lot. There is food service that closes at 2 a.m. and opens again at 7 a.m. The students love it, it is always crowded."

Gettysburg College is ranked in the top 50 liberal arts colleges in U.S. News & World Report for the fourth consecutive year. Its library is open 24 hours beginning on Sunday at 10 a.m. and ending Friday at 8 p.m. Once midnight strikes, students are given free drinks and snacks to help them as they write papers, study for tests or engage in group projects. Gettysburg student Jenner Smith states, "You may not use it all the time, but when you have that term paper due, or that big exam the next day you can appreciate that we have access to everything we need."

RWU's resources limit its ability to have extended hours. "Staffing is what is prohibiting longer hours; we are at our staffing limit," said Deekle. Mary Lou Leocadio, Circulation Coordinator for the University Library explained that she "would make arrangements if my supervisor asked that of me." At RWU, the faculty is unionized; therefore, major changes would have to occur because of the contract stipulations. "It wouldn't be easy," Leocadio stated. "I would really have to make arrangements."

The academic computer lab in the Gabelli School of Business closes at midnight as do the other various labs around campus. Students gravitate toward the computer labs due to the numerous computers in the facilities and for the free printing. Shawn Platt, Academic Technology Center Manager, explained, "There are always people wanting more hours, it comes up every year." Platt does agree that it would be helpful, yet it

is the work-study students who run the computer labs at night. "Nobody wants to do it," Platt stated. "They only want it during the last week of classes."

Although Platt runs the Gabelli computer labs, the science labs, the psychology lab, the ELI lab and the engineering lab, it is the 50 students who primarily work in these areas. In order for more hours to be accommodated, he needs students to commit to coming in and working their designated hours. He stated, "The problem is the pay. How much do we pay the students to keep the labs open? Anything is possible," he continued. "The students control the environment so it's their job to promote the additional hours."

Among other complaints, RWU students want on-campus, late night, food availability. Although it varies, all food locations on campus close by midnight. Students rely on off-campus eateries, such as Dominos, Blue Water Cafe and China Moon to

deliver; however, these establishments are not open around the clock. John Smalls, General Manager of Dining Services, said that students haven't directly requested later hours and therefore, "it hasn't been contemplated at this time." On the contrary, John King, Vice President of Student Affairs, agrees, "There could be a need for a late night place open until 1 or 2 a.m." King explained that dining services' hours are constantly reviewed, yet for now they will be keeping the existing hours.

Frustrated, Scanlon said, "What if you're not on campus for any meals and you come back and everything is closed? A lot of other campuses have fast-food establishments on site and they are open all hours."

The University of Rhode Island, with about 11,000 undergraduates, has a lot of late night dining places around campus. Student Sara Rashba stated, "There are a lot of food places, especially pizza places, that are on cam-

pus that are open 'til around 3 a.m., but they do close eventually." At New York University, student Shulamit Ponet explained, "There are a lot of places that stay open all night, such as delis and markets, that will accept our campus cash."

Ashley Collins, junior at RWU, dislikes that health services closes at 5 p.m. every weeknight. "One weekend freshman year when I had no car, I had been up all night coughing and just wanted some cough medicine. I couldn't get any because health services was closed and I had no older friends to drive me to CVS." Anne Andrade, Director of Health Services, does not completely agree with Collins' desire to have constant medical attention on campus. Andrade said, "We have considered having health services open more hours during the week, and possibly on the weekends too, but part of the restraints are our resources." Those resources include staffing and the cost to stay open, "which

is when they put the brakes on," Andrade said. For emergencies past 5 p.m. and on weekends, students are directed to either the Bristol Medical Center, or to Newport Hospital. These options are not always available for students without cars. In addition to travel problems, many students are financially hindered by the cost of emergency room visits.

"It is more about the value for the money spent. Is it worthwhile to keep these places open and would it benefit the students?" said Peter Wilbur, Associate Vice President for Finance and Administration.

"We can't seem to use any of the facilities late at night and that prohibits students from having a flexible work and eating schedule," said Mariah Barron, junior.

In order to keep RWU students happy, Wilbur said, we must have the attitude of "good, better, best, never let it rest."



# Registration far from a cruise

Elizabeth Liederman  
Contributing Writer

RWU senior Bill Leaver wasn't out getting rowdy with friends (nor was he at home playing online "Party Poker") the day he cut his Intercultural Communications class with Professor Anjali Ram. Instead, he was at the library enduring an online battle with CampusCruiser, in a delayed attempt to register for classes during his scheduled registration time.

Leaver, a diligent and motivated student, measures his irritation with the online registration process against his academic success.

"[Registering] for next semester classes is a little more important than missing one class," Leaver said. "But I was wondering what would have happened if I had a test or something—what would I have done then?"

This semester, Nov. 11 marked the first day of the registration process on campus. For some students, the idea of "registering for classes" not only took on a new meaning, but it also took up a lot of their valued time—time that could have been spent in class, at work or studying for the upcoming midterms (which took place the following week).

Many RWU students quickly discovered that registering online for the 2005 spring semester was not a quick-and-easy process. Creating a schedule that met their

many requirements contributed to the countless battles with advisors, professors, administrators and especially, the Information Technology (IT) system.

The IT Department acknowledges that registration is about services, particularly those that are online. But according to some students and faculty, IT isn't taking action soon enough to fix the problems that are occurring.

Leaver believes that it is the administration, and not IT, that is responsible for the frequent problems students encounter while trying to register. "The administration needs to reevaluate the way the University uses the Internet as a tool," he said.

Luckily, RWU Registrar Dan Vilenski is willing to admit that the department has made some mistakes in particular registration procedures. "We made adjustments this fall so that four to six groups of students could register online per day," Vilenski said. "But the long and the short of it is that six groups wasn't enough; we should have made it eight or nine."

Vilenski also feels that registering online this past spring was a better experience for everyone, in part, because there were fewer students. However, according to Vilenski, "Despite the problems that occurred, we [the administration] had more students registered per day than we did a year ago."

But that still didn't stop the system from acting up.

According to IT director Joe Pangborn, "This year the system was overloaded—there were too many students trying to hit [the system] right away."

When asked what IT planned on doing about the problems students have encountered with online registration, Pangborn said, "Each semester, we start adjusting the system and its processes to provide better access to the students. Now, we're also going to work with the registrar to more uniformly release the students to the system, by working around each of their individual schedules."

Nonetheless, RWU students weren't exactly thrilled about the time and effort spent constructing their schedules, a procedure that caused both setbacks and confusion amid an already hectic academic life.

Leaver, looking back on his four years here, can't seem to recall ever having as much difficulty registering online for classes as he did this semester—except when he was a freshman and registration was done via telephone (apparently, another tedious process).

As Leaver remembers it, "When I used online registration last year I had no problems, but this year it took me almost two hours to register and get all my classes. And, as a senior, I feel this is ridiculous."

Nonetheless, Greg Bowen, senior, found

this year that the over-the-phone approach happened to work to his advantage.

"I had planned on registering online, but before I did so, I called the phone registration and ended up getting right through," Bowen stated. "It only took me five minutes to register for five classes."

Students were not alone in their struggles to produce schedules that would, with a little extra effort, eventually fit their needs. Advisors had their fair share of problems to deal with throughout the several weeks following registration. So far, the teachers have found that thanks to IT's problematic system, when a student encounters a problem with the school's online services, chances are the teacher does, too.

According to communications Professor Roxanne O'Connell, "Over the past two years, one thing that really got in the [communication department] way was not knowing that certain marketing classes were closed to

students outside of the business school. These are classes required for the PR and global major, and I had juniors and seniors who needed to get into these classes but couldn't, because they were locked out."

Moreover, when discussing the recent dilemmas students and faculty have faced in the past few months, O'Connell believes that employee satisfaction equals customer satisfaction. "So far the administration has been emphatic about the role and involvement of advisors in the whole registration process," O'Connell stated, "because they don't want students to do it all by themselves given they might make the wrong decisions."

O'Connell adds that if the administration were to design a process where the experience of registering for all students was made better, then putting some time and effort into fixing these issues would, in turn, work immeasurably to improve all aspects of the registration experience.

Where students are

concerned, Professor Bob Ristino, also in communications, feels that a problem one student has with registering online will ultimately affect all students.

"If one thing goes askew it can have a ripple effect, because when one student has a problem, it has an impact on other students that we, as faculty, don't see; it affects others like dominoes," Ristino said.

According to Bill Leaver, who had originally planned for a quick registration at his assigned 1 p.m. time, "There were a good 10-15 people really pissed off because they could not get online. I was one of the people complaining, and I actually wrote an email to President Nirschel about how aggravated I was with it [registering]—and yet it has now been almost three weeks, and he has still not responded to me, even though he said in an interview in the *Hawks Herald* that he responds to all emails from students."



Allisyn Deyo

A student uses CampusCruiser to register for spring classes. Students recently logged several complaints with the IT department about the difficulties they experienced during registration.

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# Greater than sliced bread

Tim Mannion  
Sports Editor

I have been in an ongoing debate with one of my friends for the past couple of weeks about the greatest invention ever. We broke down the choices to a short list—six things to be exact. He, of course, went toward the establishment of technology—the light bulb, TV, the Internet and the overrated answer—cell phones. I tried to create a list that matched his, but I couldn't possibly find one real, solid truth. The only answer I achieved from this conversation was that everybody has their own list.

For bachelors, the microwave and the introduction of microwavable meals are the basis of life. For football fans, the yellow strip that marks where a team needs to get to in order for a first down is reason enough to watch every play. The creation of credit cards has made "Girls Gone Wild: Shop 'til You Drop" a reality at their parent's expense. It's OK though; Daddy loves the Prada.

I thought long and hard about this topic. When I woke up the next morning, I leaned out of bed and turned off my alarm—by no means a great invention. The person who created that should be in jail or something. I got up, took a shower (the body wash doesn't get girls like the commercial promised—not a good invention), brushed my teeth (toothpaste was used) and slipped on my torn Levi jeans (they reek). I don't have any \$100 T-shirts (ridiculous in their own right) so I put on my RWU hoodie (overpriced), grabbed my car keys and headed for the door.

But not before I put on my trusty flip-flops. These flip-flops have been in my life for several weeks now and I trust them more than I would

trust a lot of people I know. I kind of have a flip-flop fetish. That may sound terrible, but try being in my shoes. Oh yeah, I don't wear shoes so that might be tough.

Slipping them on, I felt this comfortable rush that calmed my jittery nerves. I was ready to rule the day.

The invention of flip-flops was man's single greatest achievement. A bold statement, but this is just one man's opinion. Nothing in my day can ever replace the feeling I get when the flip

*The invention of flip-flops was man's single greatest achievement.*

goes in perfect harmony with the flop.

A little background: the origin of flip-flops haven't been fully traced back to their roots, but we do know they first appeared in the United States after World War II, when returning soldiers stuffed souvenir flip-flops in their duffel bags (snatched off the feet of Japanese soldiers, who had fashioned them from old car tires). It's also known that during the time of ancient Egypt, the pharaohs really dug flip-flops and I can see why. When I'm wearing them, I feel like I'm in a position of power as well. It's pathetic.

From my years of experience in this field I have noticed a few things about this lifestyle. There are two types of flip-flop wearers out in the world. The "basic" people are those who rock out on flops only during the warm weather. I look down on these people.

These yuppie posers want the tradition. I tell them to shut it down and go get a pair of sambas. These basic people know it. They buy the designer, jewel-covered, ugly-looking flops that match their outfit. That's fine, jump on the bandwagon. I'm waiting for them to move on to their next debauchery. These guys are a bunch of winners.

The "big-time" flop wearers are the ones who understand the concept of the art form. The metamorphosis of the flip-flop has made these people angry. They want the humble, rub-

ber roots that have now been thrown down to the lowest level—shower shoes. If you were "big time," then you would wear them in the shower and wear them to class—in a foot of snow.

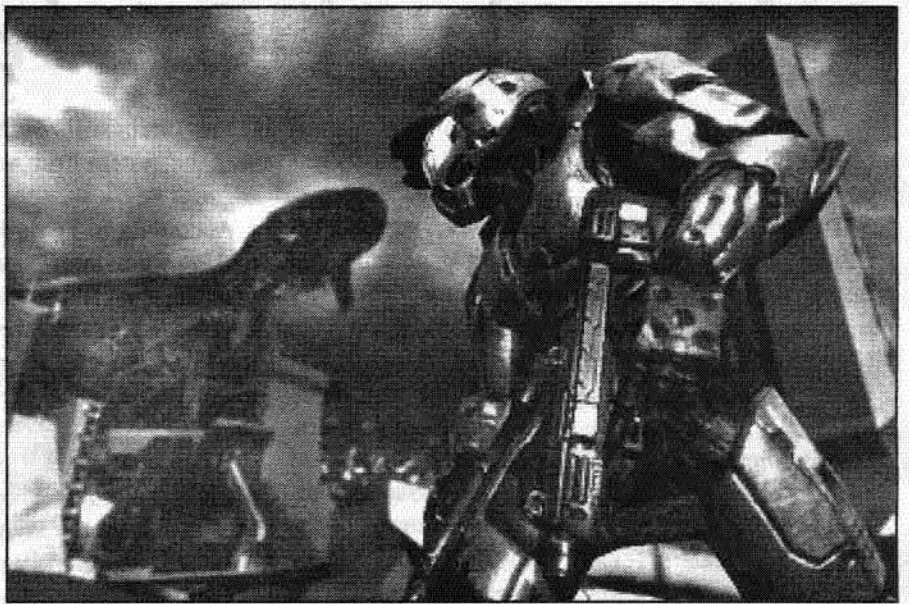
I personally wear my flops everywhere. I sport them in the shower and the gym. I rock them every day in all kinds of weather. I put them on when attending weddings, funerals and graduations. They are a sufficient part of my life.

If you ever need a friend, there is always a Wal-Mart right around the corner. For \$1.95 you can buy a friendship. This relationship will never leave your feet unless you lose them. And if you do, just scrounge up some change and get another pair.

But like I said, this is just one man's opinion.



The Free Lance Star



Bungie.net

## Halo 2 Rocks

Tim Mannion  
Sports Editor

For most Xbox owners, the season to beg has officially begun. The most coveted prize—Halo 2. And this one isn't a stocking stuffer. Halo 2 packs a punch like a drunken mule with bad reflexes. Since its release in early November, Xbox gamers have picked up more than five million copies worldwide.

For some loyal X-heads, the game is the only reason to buy the system. The new features, including a great new story line (single and co-op), and online melees have made Halo 2 a popular Christmas gift this year, but check before you buy, because the best of us have gotten a head start on Santa. In fact, 900,000 users are already ripping it up on Xbox Live.

The finest new feature

to "combat evolved" is that the players can take their skills online and battle other worthy opponents from all over. From talking smack to spawn killing, Halo 2 has certainly pushed the envelope of online gaming. Bungie, the software company that creates the game, claims that Xbox Live online players have clocked a record-setting 28 million hours playing Halo 2, more than any other Xbox Live game in the history of the online service.

"Bungie thought of everything with Halo 2, just the fact that you can spend hours playing against complete strangers without even realizing it, then if you get bored of that you can try to actually beat the game alone or with a friend. And if you have an argument with someone

about who's better all you have to do is go to bungie.net as proof," said Mike Laidlaw, RWU junior.

Bungie.net is the key Web site with this game. It is, if you will, the Bible for Halo 2. On this site, players can check theirs, or a friend's, statistics from battles online, or even look at the last level they played so they know where they were killed and by whom.

### Buyer Beware:

Halo 2 is remarkably habit forming. Once logged online, the player must understand his/her day may be well over. Its addictive nature has parents furious and kids drooling. So stuff it in your sack Santa, or pray I don't beat down your ass with the Covenant Energy Sword.

## Disc Dedication

### Ultimate Frisbee looks to the spring

Charlie Stone  
Contributing Writer

Two pairs of shorts and three shirts, covered by long pants and a long-sleeve shirt and topped off with gloves and a wool hat, covered in mud: now that is the uniform of a dedicated, RWU Ultimate Frisbee player.

On Nov. 13, our co-ed Ultimate team competed in the last tournament of the season in Hanover, New Hampshire: Dartmouth College's annual "ice" tournament. The late-fall tour-

nament attracts ultimate teams from the New England area, including teams from NYU. Despite a generally poor showing at this particular tournament, the team has had a successful season.

Led by a core group of veteran players, the team has spent practices teaching new players the spirit and techniques necessary to play at a competitive college level. The program is only two years old, so the majority of players this semester are "new-

bies." Perhaps you have seen them on the field behind the Architecture building at 6 a.m. all week. "Come the last month or so of the semester you can also expect to see them in the gym hitting weights to get ready for spring. With such a dedicated team, hopes are extremely high for next semester.

Within two years, the team hopes to make it to the national tournament to compete with the best in the nation.